

In the Claims:



1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A relay comprising: a base that defines a base plane; a magnet system arranged on the base including a coil, a core and an armature; at least one pair of closing spring contacts and at least one pair of opening spring contacts, each pair of spring contacts including a passive and an active spring contact, and each spring contact being secured in the base, standing  perpendicular to the base plane, and having at an end remote from the base a contact portion; and an actuating slide movable parallel to the base plane to act on each active spring contact, ~~in the vicinity of the contact portion~~
characterised in that
the slide  acts on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different ~~spacing from the spacing at the base~~
and from that at which it acts on the corresponding closing spring contacts.

7. (currently amended) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the slide acts on the active opening spring contacts ~~in each case at a larger spacing as regards the point at which it is secured~~

8. (currently amended) The relay according to Claim 7, wherein all of the active spring contacts are of the same construction.

9. (previously added) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein in the untensioned condition all the active spring contacts adopt an open position with respect to their associated passive spring contacts, and in that the active opening spring contacts are switched by the force of a restoring spring and the active closing spring contacts are switched by the force of the magnet system to their respective closing position.

10. (previously added) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the magnet system has a U-shaped core with a core limb lying inside the coil and a yoke limb lying outside the coil, with the cross-section of iron within the core limb being increased by an additional flux member.

11. (new) A relay according to claim 10, wherein the active spring contacts are of two types, one type being an opening spring contact having a contact member which is fixed at a base of the relay, and the other type being a closing spring contact having a contact member which is fixed at a base of the relay, and the active spring contacts are arranged in different distances from the base plane.

12. (new)

A relay according to claim 12, wherein the active spring contacts are of two types, one type being an opening spring contact having a contact member which is fixed at a base of the relay, and the other type being a closing spring contact having a contact member which is fixed at a base of the relay, and the active spring contacts are arranged in different distances from the base plane.

13. (new) -